

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 00761 161635Z

13-12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-11 /080 W

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R 161524Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8173

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00761

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, CI

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SECONDE'S REMARKS ON CHILE

1. IN CONVERQATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, BRITAIN'S AM-BASSADOR IN CHILE, REGINALD SECONDE, SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR HIS RETURN TO SANTIAGO. THE IRONY THAT BRITAIN SHOULD LOSE ITS AMBASSADORS WHEN THEY ARE MOST NEEDED (REFERRING TO CHILE, ARGENTINA, AND POSSIBLY ICELAND) MIGHT NOT APPEAL TO SOME PARLIAMENTARIANS, SECONDE SAID, IN WHICH CASE THERE COULD BE A DEMAND THAT HE RETURN TO HIS POST. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT CERTAIN WHICH WAY THE WIND IS BLOWING IN LONDON BECAUSE HE HAD NOT AS YET SEEN CALLAGHAN.

2. SECONDE HAD LITTLE NEW TO ADD IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT: WELL-INTENTIONED ARMY MEN, POLITICALLY NAIVE, WITH AN INCREDIBLE KNACK FOR DOING THINGS WRONG. HE DEPLORED CHILE'S SECURITY APPARATUS AND DESCRIBED THE CASSIDY AFFAIR AS A WELL-PUBLICIZED EXAMPLE OF ITS ALL TOO TYPICAL BEHAVIOR. THE RULERS ARE DEFIANT IN THEIR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HAVE MANAGED TO ALIENATE JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY. HE HAS NO HINTS OF A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT BUT SAID THAT OTHERS IN THE REGIME

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PAGE 02 LONDON 00761 161635Z

ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO CHILE'S POOR IMAGE THAN THEIR

AFFABLE IF SOMEWHAT OBTUSE LEADER.

3. COMMENT: SECONDE'S SUGGESTION THAT PARLIAMENT MIGHT
SOMEHOW REACT TO THE ABSENCE OF HMG'S AMBASSADORS IN
CAPITALS OF CMNTROVERSY STRIKES US AS WISHFUL THINKING.
CHILE, ARGENTINA, AND POSSIBLY ICELAND ARE EACH DIFFERENT
CASES IN DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. TO RETURN SECONDE TO
HIS POST IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WILSON WOULD HAVE TO BE AS
INSENSITIVE TM LIBERAL OPINION AS PINOCHET.
SPIERS

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